REMARKS

Applicants request entry of this amendment in adherence with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821 to 1.825. This amendment is accompanied by a floppy disk containing the above named sequences, SEQ ID NOS:1-5, in computer readable form, and a paper copy of the sequence information which has been printed from the floppy disk.

The information contained in the computer readable disk was prepared through the use of the software program "PatentIn" and is identical to that of the paper copy. This amendment contains no new matter.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 16 has been amended as follows:

In one embodiment, a label is coupled to a molecule, such as an antibody that specifically binds to SAP, through a chemical linker. Linker domains are typically polypeptide sequences, such as poly-gly sequences of between about 5 and 200 amino acids. In some embodiments, proline residues are incorporated into the linker to prevent the formation of significant secondary structural elements by the linker. Preferred linkers are often flexible amino acid subsequences that are synthesized as part of a recombinant fusion protein comprising the RNA recognition domain. In one embodiment, the flexible linker is an amino acid subsequence that includes a proline, such as Gly(x)-Pro-Gly(x) (SEQ ID NO:5) where x is a number between about 3 and about 100. In other embodiments, a chemical linker is used to connect synthetically or recombinantly produced recognition and labeling domain subsequences. Such flexible linkers are known to persons of skill in the art. For example, poly(ethylene glycol) linkers are available from Shearwater Polymers, Inc. Huntsville, Alabama. These linkers optionally have amide linkages, sulfhydryl linkages, or heterofunctional linkages.

Paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 30 has been amended as follows:

Appropriate PCR primers were made corresponding to the coding sequence of the 5' and 3' ends of the *B. anthracis* SAP gene (see primer sequence below). These primers were based on a published nucleotide sequence (Etienne-Toumelin *et al.*, *supra*). DNA encoding the native signal sequence of SAP (amino acids 1-29) was purposefully omitted from the cloning since a functional signal sequence was provided by the expression vector pBRncoH3 (described in copending, commonly-owned US patent application Ser. No. 08/835,159, filed April 4, 1997). The 5' primer contains 23 bases of vector sequence at its 5'-end that corresponds to the 3'-end of the pBRncoH3 vector. The 3' primer contains 19 bases of the tetracycline promoter, removed by *Hin*dIII digestion in the vector, in addition to 20 bases of vector sequence 3' to the *Hin*dIII site. The 3' primer was also engineered to encode a hexahistidine amino acid tag at the C-terminus of the SAP protein to allow for efficient purification using nickel-chelate affinity chromatography (see below).

5' PCR primer: 5' - TCGCTGCCCAACCAGCCATGGCCGCAGGTAAAA CATTCCCAGAC -3' (SEQ ID NO:3) ~~(SEQ ID NO:2)~~

3' PCR primer: 5'- GTGATAAACTACCGCATTAAAGCTTATCGATGATA AGCTGTCAATTAGTGATGGTGATGGTGATGTTTTG TTGCAGGTTTTGCTTCTTT -3' (SEQ ID NO:4) ~~(SEQ ID NO:3)~~